

The PERILS of FALSE BRETHREN, both
in Church, and State:

Set forth in a

Sach. 16/3(1)

S E R M O N

PREACH'D

Before the Right Honourable

THE

LORD-MAYOR,

Aldermen, and Citizens of London,

AT THE

CATHEDRAL-Church of St. Paul,

On the 5th of November, 1709.

*Haud Independentem Speculatus, Neminem ceterius Opprimi:
quam Qui nihil timeret, & Frequentissimum Initium esse Calamita-
tis SECURITATEM. V. Pater. L. 2. c. 118.*

*When they shall say PEACE, and SAFETY, then sudden De-
struction cometh upon them as Travail upon a Woman with Child; and
they shall not escape, 1 Thess. c. 5. v. 3.*

By HENRY SACHEVERELL, D. D. Fellow of
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Southwark.

L O N D O N :

Printed for Henry Clements, at the Half-Moon in
St. Paul's Church-Yard, 1709.

To the Right Honourable
Sir Samuel Garrard,
Lord-Mayor of the City of London.

MY LORD,

BY Your Lordship's Command this Discourse Ventures to Appear in Publick, in Contempt of all those Scandalous Misrepresentations the Malicious Adversaries of Our Church have Traduc'd it with, and that Impartial Sentence it had the Honour to Receive from some of those Acute, and Wise Judges, who Condemn'd it without Sight, or Hearing. But 'tis no New Thing with some Men to Censure at Random, what lies out of their Sphere; Examining a Cause may prove Dangerous for Fear of their Own Conviction of it's Merits. When Men are Resolv'd to Leap into a Gulph; the best way is to shut their Eyes, for fear they should See their Danger, and Repent of their Folly: When they are thus Abandon'd, and Given up to Ruin, the Charitable Hand, that would hold out an Unwelcome Light to Prevent it, must expect to be Treated with that ungrateful Insolence, and Reproach, which usually Attends the Generous Freedom of those who Dare speak Seasonable, and Necessary Truths. That Patient's Case doubtless is very Desperate, that sets himself against His Cure; and when Men are so stupidly hardn'd in their Errors as to Resist the most Glaring Evidence, there's no Room for Argument, or Gospel. Moses, and the Prophets, may with Christ, and his Apostles, be Banish'd Our Synagogues, when Truth must be Oppress'd by Number, and Noise, and Rebellious Appeals to the People, as the only Judges of Right, and Wrong, and the Dernier Resort of Justice, and Dominion. Are not these the Fashionable Methods now made use of to Over-bear, and Silence Our Church, to Affront, and Revile Our Legislature, in

order



The Dedication.

order to Break in upon the Prerogative of the Crown? By Threatning them with Imaginary Legions, and a Popular Tribunal, where their Authority, and Establishment are to be Try'd, and Determin'd? To put a Stop to which Dangerous, and Encroaching Mischiet, that now with Impunity walks up and down thro' this Distracted Kingdom, I thought it my Duty, (being Summon'd to this Office by Your Lordship) to Discharge it in the Best Method I could; to Preserve Us from these Malicious Designs, by endeavouring, if possible, to Open the Eyes of the Deluded People, in this Our Great Metropolis; being Conscious of what prodigious Importance it is to the Welfare of the whole Nation, to have its Rich, and Powerful Inhabitants set right in their Notions of Government, both in Church, and State; that they may not be Flatter'd into their Ruin, but seeing the Fatal Consequences of these Damnable False Doctrines, which some Seditious Impostors have Labour'd to Poison 'em with, may Forsake, and Detest them. I am confident, My Lord, that this Glorious, and Renown'd City can Boast of so many Excellent Examples of Unshaken Steadiness, Disinterested Probity, and true Zeal, and Loyalty for Our Church and Sovereign, that if they would Act with the same open and undaunted Resolution Your Lordship does, these Affrighting Phantoms must Vanish: But if Honest Gentlemen will sit still, and give up their Cause thro' want of Courage, or a Just Sense of the Dangerous Attempts of our Enemies, without the Spirit of Prophecy We may foretel what will become of Our Constitution, when 'tis so Vigorously Attack'd from without, and so Lazily Defended from within.

We are told by these Men, who would fain shut both Our Eyes and Our Mouths, in order the more effectually to Undermine and Destroy Us, that the Pulpit is not a Place for Politicks, and that 'tis the Business of a Clergy-Man to Preach Peace, and not Sound a Trumpet in Sion, so expressly contrary to the Command of God, to Cry aloud; and Spare not: My Lord, I was always humbly of Opinion, that the Fifth Commandment was Genuine; the Fanaticks would do well to strike that Dangerous Precept out of the Decalogue, as the Papists have the Second, and that neither might Rise in Judgment against these United Friends and Brethren. Now as this stands the First in the Second Table, is it not of the utmost Importance to be rightly Understood, as containing the

The Dedication.

Principal Duty that We Owe to God's Vice-Gerents, which has been so Scandalously, and Villainously Misinterpreted of late, to the Great Dishonour of Both? Certainly Our Church thought so formerly, when it took such Care to Guard Our Obedience, with more Homilies, concerning the Peril of Rebellion, than of any other Sin. And when was more Reason for Enforcing their Doctrines than now, when We see these admirable Dissuatives against Faction and Sedition maliciously Wrested to Countenance, and Support it? If our Excellent Constitution apprehends no Hazard from these Licentious Proceedings, I am sure those who would Defend it from them, have reason to do so with regard to their Own Persons: Our Pastors can't do their Duty without being Menac'd for it, and Slander'd by the Vile Amanuenses of the Mob, to expose us to their Fury, as Papists, and Men Disaffected to Her Majesty's Government, whose Safety, Rights, and Establishment, together with those of the Church, We so earnestly contend for; which I solemnly here Declare (as I did before in this Discourse) to be my only Aim and Intention; and in an humble way to follow the Footsteps of Your Lordship, who is so Bright an Ornament, and Support of them, that this Great City may Flourish under Your Auspicious Conduct, and never want a Magistrate of your steady Principles to Guide and Govern it, is the Hearty Prayer of,

MY LORD,

Your Lordship's

Most Humble Servant,

HENRY SACHEVERELL.

2 Cor. xi. 26.

IN PERILS among FALSE BRETHREN.

AMONG All the most Dreadful Plots that ever Threatn'd this Church, and Kingdom, the Dismal Tragedy contriv'd as this Day to be Executed on Both, may justly Claim the Horrible Precedence, and consequently the Highest Expressions of Our Gratitude for so Astonishing and Miraculous a Deliverance from it. For whether We consider the Black Depth of it's subtle Contrivance, the Destructive Extent, and Sanguinary Consequences of it, or it's Surprising and Unaccountable Discovery, We must Confess, that nothing but the All-powerful, and Gracious Hand of God, interposing against the utter Subversion of Our Nation, and Religion, could have prevented such a Fatal Conspiracy. A Conspiracy! so full of the most Unheard-of Malice, most Insatiable Cruelty, most Diabolical Revenge, as only could be Hatch'd in the Cabiner-Council of Hell, and Brought forth in a Conclave of Romish Jesuits! Now, tho' the History of this Unparallel'd Mystery of Iniquity, was Design'd against Us at such a Distance of Time, and the Fact so evidently Acknowledg'd, that the Papists themselves are so far from Denying, that they Extol it with the Highest Panegyrics; so that there needs neither Proof of the One, or Repetition of the Other: Yet doubtless 'tis as much Our Duty, as Interest, to keep up the Annual Celebration of this Never-to-be-forgotten Festival. For that the very Face, and Shadow of Our Church, and Constitution, is yet Surviving; That this Good, and Pious Relict of the Royal Family, Sits now Happily upon the Throne of Her Great Ancestors; That our Hierarchy, and Nobility was not finally Extirpated, and cut off; That Our Country was not made an Aceldama, a Field of Blood, and a Receptacle of Usurping Robbers; That we yet, without Slavery, Superstition, or Idolatry, enjoy the Benefit of our Excellent Laws, and most Holy Profession Undeild: In a Word, That God has yet Vouchsaf'd Us this Opportunity of coming into his Presence, to Acknowledge these Inestimable Blessings, is owing to his Mercy so signally shewn to Us, in Disappointing the Barbarous Massacre intended This Day. A Day! which ought to stand for Ever in the English Kalender, as an Eternal Era at the One end, as the Thirtieth of January at the other, for Indelible Monuments of the Irreconcilable Rage, and Blood-cristiness of both the Popish, and Fanatick Enemies of Our Church, and Government! For these are equally such Treacherous FALSE BRETHREN, from whom we must always expect the utmost Perils, and against whom we can never sufficiently Arm Ourselves with the greatest Caution, and Security. These TWO DAYS indeed, are but One United Proof, and Visible Testimonial of the same Dangerous, and Rebellious Principles, these Confederates in Iniquity Maintain: And as the One is but a Thanksgiving of our Deliverance from what the First Projected; so is the Other an Humiliation, for what God permitted the Latter, by Their Help and Direction, to put in Execution. I think therefore; the Best way of Acknowledging These Great Mercies, and

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Judgments of God, and Acquitting Both Solemnities in a Proper way, is by so justly Considering Our *Circumstances* with respect to *Each Side*, as to Guard against Their *Malicious*, and *Factionous Designs* for the future; that we may never *Trust Either*, to need a *Second Deliverance* from those *Villainous Enterprizes*, they will never cease to put in Practice, whenever they see an *Opportunity* of doing it with *Security*.

Now as *Persecution*, and *Affliction*, were the *Distinguishing Badges* of the *Messiah*, who was a *Man of Sorrows*, and *Acquainted with Griefs*, so to Convince his *Disciples*, that his *Kingdom* was not of this *World*, He *Bequeath'd* the same *sad Legacy* to them, to share the *Character*, as well as imitate the *Example*, of their *Dying Lord*, and *Master*. With unshaken *Courage*, and *Resolution*, to take up His *Bloody Cross*, and follow the *Great Leader of their Salvation*; to *March* with a *Cheerful Magnanimity* thro' all the *Powers of Darkness*, looking unto *Jesus*, the *Author* and *Finisher* of *Their Faith*, who, for the *Joy* that was set before Him, *Endur'd* the *Cross*, despising the *Shame*, and is set down at the *Right-hand* of the *Throne of God*. Thus was His *Church* to expect no *Better Treatment* than her *Great Founder*, and *Original*, to pass thro' the same *Fiery Trial*, to be made *Perfect* through *Sufferings*, to be *Militant* here, in order to be *Triumphant* hereafter; and like Him, to be *Crown'd* with *thorns* in *This World*, to obtain a *Crown of Glory* in the *Next*. Not only to Encounter the *Open Fury* and *Violence* of Her *Profess'd*, and *Inveterate Enemies*; but (which was the *Bitterest Part* of Her *Sufferings*) like Her *Saviour*, to be *Betray'd*, and *perfidiously Given up* by Her *Own False-hearted*, and *Insidious Apostles*.

As the *Histories* of the *Church* in *All Ages*, are as 'twere but *One Continu'd Ratification* of this *Melancholly Truth*, made up of so many *Mournful Narratives*, of the *Unhappy Lives*, and *Disastrous Deaths* of *Saints*, *Martyrs*, and *Confessors*, who *Bravely Seal'd* the *Faith* with their *Blood*; so it is Exemplify'd in no *One Instance* more than in that *Primitive*, and *Heroic Champion* of *Christianity*, the *Author* of this *Epistle*. Wherein, for the *Wonder*, and *Emulation* of *Posterity*, He has Recorded a *Long and Frightful Catalogue* of those *Astonishing Calamities* He had underwent in the *Propagation* of the *Gospel*. Such *Ample Satisfaction*, did the *Pious Labours* of the *Convert*, make for the wicked *Persecution* of the *Few*; when by a *Miraculous Turn* of *Providence*, the *Greatest Sinner* was Chang'd into the *Devoutest Saint*, and the most *Zealous Bigot* against, into the most *Resolute Sufferer* for, *Religion*. Yet however this *Great Apostle* might have *Attain'd* so *Extraordinary a Degree* of *Merit*, as to *Out-shine* all that *Noble Army* of *Martyrs*, which *Adorn* the *Bloody Kalender* of the *Church*; nay, as He *Expresses* it, to *come never a whit Short* of the *Greatest Apostles*, and as 'twere to *Vye Characters* with the very *Chosen* of the *Son of God*; Does it not seem a little to carry the *Air of Ostentation*, and *Vain-Glory*, thus to *Claim* the *Pre-eminence* and *Supremacy*, and to *Boast* himself in that *Pompous Shew* of *Services*, that he had done for *God*, and the *Church*? But We shall easily *Reconcile* the *Apostle*, and the *Orator*, and find no *Imputation* upon His *Modesty*, if we Consider the *Occasion*, of it. He had (as He informs Us) with much *Pains*, and *Expence*, *Planted Christianity* in *Corinth*, where He had no sooner by a *Miraculous Ministry* *Etablish'd* it, but several *False Apostles*, and *Saduzers*, were in his *Absence Crept* into the *Church*, to *Vitiate*, and *Corrupt* his *New Profelytes*, under the *Pretence* of *More Purity*.

Purity, and Holiness, (like Our Modern Sectarists) to raise a Schism amongst 'em, and to Draw them off from the Opinion they had of St. Paul; by Ridiculing Him for his Person, and Address, as a Little, Unedifying, Un-gifted Preacher, of a weak Bodily Presence, and Contemprible Speech; thus Wounding the Ministry, thro' the Sides of the Minister. Such Slight, and Provocations, certainly were a Sufficient Ground for the Apostle to Insist upon his Character, lest the Gospel should Suffer by it; And with Authority to Rebuke the Ingratitude of the Corinthians, and Vindicate his Dignity, and Transcendent Excellencies, against the base Lies, and Calumnies cast upon Him by such False Apostles, Deceitful Workers, Transforming themselves into the Apostles of Christ, like their True Father the Devil, Transforming himself into an Angel of Light. With what Justice then might He here stand upon the Comparison, when thus vilely Run down, by such Wretched, Empty, Hypocritical Sophisters? To Appeal to his Spiritual Gifts, and Revelations; and Sufferings, in Competition with such Impudent Boasting, Self-conceited Pretenders, was the Lowest Act of Humility, and Good-Nature; to Condescend to Dispute with such as ought to be Answer'd, not with Arguments, but Anathemas! Yet behold the Singular Modesty of this Great Apostle! He cannot enter upon his Own Justification, without much Reluctance, and a long Apology to introduce it. *I am become a Fool in Glorifying,* (says He,) *but You have Compell'd Me to it. I speak as concerning Reproach, as tho' We had been Weak: Howbeit, wherein any is Bold, I speak foolishly, I am Bold also. Are They Hebrews? so am I! Are They Israelites? so am I! Are They the Seed of Abraham? so am I! Are They Ministers of Christ? I speak as a Fool, I am more. In Labours more Abundant, in Stripes above Measure, in Prisons more frequent, in Deaths often; of the Jews Five times receiv'd I Forty Stripes, save One. Thrice was I beaten with Rods, Once was I Ston'd, Thrice I suffer'd Shipwreck, a Night and a Day have I been in the Deep. In Journeyings often, in Peril of Waters, in Perils of Robbers, in Perils by my Own Country-men, in Perils by the Heathens, in Perils in the City, in Perils in the Wilderness, in Perils in the Sea, in Perils amongst FALSE BRETHREN. In this Rhetorical Abridgment of the Sufferings, and Dangers of his Life, there's a very Observable Gradation; the Apostle still Rises in his Calamities, and puts this Last as the Highest Perfection of his Misery, as that which made the deepest Impression upon his Passions, and what He bore with the Greatest Resentment, and Difficulty. The many severe Pains, and Tortures inflicted on his Body, were nothing to This; nay, the Good-Nature, and Mercy of Highway-Men, and Pagans, and even the Devouring Bosom of the Deep, were to be Preferr'd before, and sooner (it seems) to be trusted to, than the more certainly Destructive, and Fallacious Bosom of a Treacherous, FALSE BROTHER.*

I shall take the Expression in its full Latitude, without confining it to the express Design of the Place; tho' it were very Obvious to draw a Parallel here, betwixt the sad Circumstances of the Church of Corinth formerly, and of the Church of England at present; wherein Her Holy Communion has been Rent, and Divided by Factions, and Schismatical Impostors; Her Pure Doctrine has been Corrupted, and Desil'd; Her Primitive Worship and Discipline Prophan'd, and Abus'd; Her Sacred Orders Deny'd, and Vilify'd; Her Priests, and Professors (like St. Paul,) Calumniated, Misrepresented, and Ridicul'd; Her Altars, and Sacraments Pro-

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flattered to Hypocrites, Deists, Socinians, and Atheists; and this done, I wish I could not say, without Discouragement, I am sure without Impunity, not only by Our Profess'd Enemies, but which is worse, by Our Pretended Friends, and FALSE BRETHREN. But to proceed to the Matter before Us: In my Discourse upon these Words, I shall endeavour,

I. First, To shew in what Sense, and upon what Accounts Men may be Denominated FALSE BRETHREN.

II. Secondly, I will lay before you the Great PERIL, and Mischiefe of such, both in Church, and State.

III. Thirdly, I will set forth the Heinous Malignity, Enormous Guilt, and Folly of this Prodigious Sin.

IV. Lastly, As a Consequence from the Whole, I will undertake to Evince what mighty Reason We have at all Times, and more especially at present, to Stick firmly to the Principles both of Our Church, and Constitution; and how much it concerns Us to Beware of all those FALSE BRETHREN, that Desert, or Betray them.

I. And First, I will shew in what Sense, and upon what Accounts Men may be denominated FALSE BRETHREN. In order to which it will be Necessary to State the full Extent of the Nature of FALSE BROTHERHOOD.

This Term *Ψδδδσλφια* being of a Relative Signification, must Respect Men as consider'd under all Social Cases, or as they are plac'd under such Regards, and Circumstances, as in Duty Oblige them both to Think, Speak, and Act, with Truth, and Integrity, correspondent to their Inward Principles, and Outward Professions. And wherein they are found Deviating Wilfully from Either, by an Unreasonable Alteration of Judgment, by any Tacit Mental Reserve, or Equivocation, upon any Indirect Ends, or Designs, or Guiding their Expressions, and Actions contrary to these Stated Rules, they are Guilty of Falsehood, both in Conscience, and Practice, of a Breach of that Veracity, Justice, and Trust, that they owe to God, Themselves, and the World, and are properly what are styl'd in the Text FALSE BRETHREN. For whereas every Man that either Believes, Speaks, or Acts Rationally, must be suppos'd to have some Standing-Ground, and Measure of Judgment, settl'd upon some Grand, Primitive Maxims of Truth, both Speculative, and Practicall, whether founded upon Revelation, Reason, or Honour, which are what we call any Man's Principles either in Religion, Society, or Friendship: If these Fundamental Axioms have with true Deliberation been Sifted, and Weigh'd, not only as to their Intrinsic Nature, and Goodness, but as to their Outward Tendency, and Consequences, they must appear, tho' not perhaps as Infalible in Themselves, yet with Respect to the Person so considering them, as Demonstrative Truths, as the Light, and Oracles of God, and Reason, set up in his Breast; by which He is always oblig'd to Direct, and Govern his Thoughts, Resolutions, and Actions; and which if He swerves from, Disowns, or Betrays, upon any Sinister Motive whatsoever, (tho' after this Nice Search they should prove Error)

neous) involve the Man in a very Heinous Sin, Treachably acting against his Judgment, and Giving the Lye both to his Faith, his Reason, and his Knowledge. This Matter being thus briefly Premis'd, it is Evident, that with Regard to the several Objects it is Conversant about, Men may in Three Respects be term'd Guilty of FALSE BROTHERHOOD.

1. First, With Relation to God, the Church, or Religion, in which they hold Faith, or Communion.
2. Secondly, With Relation to the State, Government, or Society, of which they are Members.
3. Thirdly, With Relation to those Private Persons, with whom they have either Friendship, Correspondence, or Dealing.

1. And First, He is a FALSE BROTHER with Relation to God, Religion, or the Church in which He holds Communion, that Believes, Maintains, or Propagates any False, or Heterodox Tenet, or Doctrin, Repugnant to the Express Declarations of Scripture, and the Decrees, or Sense of the Church, and Antiquity thereupon. For as in the First Alone are contain'd the Essential Points, and Articles of our most Holy Faith; so the Primitive Expositions, Decisions, and Practice of the Ancient Writers of the Pure, and Uncorrupted Ages of Christianity, must certainly be acknowledg'd the Best, and most Authentick Comments upon their Meaning. In Opposition to which, if any Upstart Novelist, or Self-conceited Enthusiast, out of Pride, as setting Himself above these Genuine Oracles of Truth; or out of Ignorance, as being Unacquainted with the Learning, and Records of Antiquity; or out of Perverseness, scorning to Submit his Understanding to the Dictates, or Better Reason of Others; or out of Ambition, and Vain-Glory, as Affecting to be the Head, and Leader of some New Sect, or Party; (All, or Either of which have, and will be found for ever the Parents of Heresy) and should Break in upon this Sacred Depositum of the Church; and should Attempt Blasphemously to Corrupt that Inviolable Fountain of Truth, with Erroneous Conjectures, and Vain Philosophical Systems; to Prophane, and Degrade the Holy Mysteries of Religion, by Absurd Interpretations, and Impudent Reasonings; should we stick to call such a Rebel to God, and Traitor to his Church, a FALSE BROTHER? If a Man should Dare not only to Revive, but to Justify any Execrable, Exploded Heresies, as those of Arius, and Nestorius, denying the Hypostatical Union, or the Eternity of the Son of God; or should affirm that He was God in Man, or that the Godhead was only locally in his Manhood, as God was in the Cloud, or that should Presume to Evacuate the Great Sanction of the Gospel, the Eternity of Hell Torments; or Expound any of the Articles of Our Faith, in such a Loose, and Vagrant way, as may suit 'em as well to a Mahometan's as a Christian's Creed; and to lay open all those Sacred Boundaries of the Church to let in all Sectarists, and Schismatics, of whatsoever Wild, Romantic, or Enthusiastic Notions, so as to make the House of God, not only a Den of Thieves, but a Receptacle of Legions of Devils: Should we cover such a False Apostle under the Sacred Umbrage of a True Church-Man? In short, whosoever presumes to Recede the least Tittle from the express Word of God, or to explain the Great Credenda of Our Faith in New-fangl'd Terms of Modern Philosophy, must publish a New Gospel, Un-God his Saviour, and Destroy his Revelation; and by unsettling the Universal, Receiv'd Doctrin of the Church, give up Christianity

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stianity into Scepticism, and Atheism; and to speak the best of his Character, is FALSE both to his God, and his Religion, and shall be call'd hereafter, The least in the Kingdom of Heaven, how Great soever he may be in the Kingdoms here below. And as a Man may thus Betray the Doctrin of his Church, so is he no less FALSE to it's Interest, that gives up any Point of her Discipline, and Worship. These are the Exterior Fences to Guard the Internals of Religion, without which they are left Naked, without Beauty, Order, or Defence. Should any Man, out of Ignorance, or Prejudice, to the Antient Rights, and Essential Constitution of the Catholic Church, affirm, That the Divine Apostolical Institution of Episcopacy, is a Novel Doctrin, not sufficiently Warranted by Scripture, and that 'tis Indifferent whether the Church is Govern'd by Bishops, or Presbyters; Is not such a One an Apostate from his Own Orders? Let the Christian World be Judge, who best Deserve the Name of Church-Men, those that Strickly Defend, and Maintain the Catholic Doctrins upon which the Church, as a Society, is Founded; or those who would Barter them for a Mungrel-Union of All Sects? Those who Zealously support her Mission, which only can Support her, or those who would Destroy it, to take in Schismatical Presbyters without Episcopal Ordination, which would Un-Church the very Church, and Annihilate her Constitution? Is this the Spirit, and Doctrin of Our Holy Mother? To assert Separation from Her Communion, to be no Schism; or if it was, that Schism is no Damnable Sin; that Occasional Conformity is no Hypocrisy, but rather for the Benefit of the Church; that any One may be an Occasional Conformist with Schismatics, and yet not Guilty of Schism; that a Christian may serve God in any Way or Congregation of Worship, as well by Extempory Prayers, as by a Prescrib'd Form, and Liturgy; that Conformity to the Church, and Ecclesiastical Authority, are no Parts of Morality, and a Good-Life, which are only necessary to Salvation: That the Orders and Ceremonies of the Church, are only Cural, Arbitrary Ordinances, to be Dispens'd with as Men please, both by Clergy and Laity; that the Censures, and Excommunications of the Church, are meer Bruta Fulmina, Canonical Obedience, and Absolution, Spiritual Tyranny, and Usurpation; and in a Word, that the Whole Body of the Worship, and Discipline of the Church of England, is nothing else but Priestcraft and Popery in Masquerade. If, upon all Occasions to comply with the Dissenters both in Publick, and Private Affairs, as Persons of Tender Conscience, and Piety, to promote their Interests in Elections, to Suck to 'em for Places, and Preferment, to Defend Toleration, and Liberty of Conscience, and under the pretence of Moderation, to excuse Their Separation, and lay the Fault upon the True Sons of the Church, for carrying Matters too high; if to Court the Fanaticks in Private, and to hear 'em with Patience, if not Approbation; Rail at, and Blaspheme the Church, and upon occasion to Justify the King's Murder; If to Flatter both the Dead and the Living in their Vices, and to tell the World, that if they have Wit, and Money enough they need no Repentance, and that only Fools and Beggars can be Damn'd; If these, I say, are the Modish, and Fashionable Criteria of a True Church-Man, God deliver Us All from such FALSE BRETHREN.

There is another sort of them who are for a Neutrality in Religion, who Really are of None, but are a secret sort of Reserv'd Atheists, who always pretend to be of the Church, Join in the Herd, and will some-

times

times frequent Our Publick Communion, as long as the Government appears on Our side; but if any thing is to be got by it, can with as safe a Conscience slide privately into a Conventicle, and look as Demure as the sweetest Saint amongst 'em. They are equally of All, and of No Communion, they are the Gallio's that care for none of these Things; They tell Us they are for the Religion Establish'd by Law, but no longer than 'tis so; they can see neither Sin, nor Danger in that Ecclesiastical Bugbear, as they call Schism, yet talk very loud about Union, Comprehension, and Moderation; by all which Canting Expressions, they mean nothing but Getting Money, and Preferment, by holding in with Persons of all Parties, and Characters, Halting betwixt a Diversity of Opinions, and Reconciling God, and Belial for Gain. To these we may add those who either out of Fear, or Complaisance, can tamely, and without Vindication, hear their God, and Religion Blasphem'd and Abus'd. But there are another sort of FALSE BRETHREN, who set up for a greater Perfection in Piety than their Neighbours, who like their Originals, the Pharisees in the Gospel, are always Pleading their Merits before God, and the World, with an Ostentation of Sanctity, in comparison with their Profane Brethren, with a Stand-off, for I am Holier than Thou! These are the Saints, that under the Pretence of Conscience, shall Commit the most Abominable Impieties, and Justify Murder, Sacrilege, and Rebellion, by Texts of Scripture. There are yet another Sort of FALSE BRETHREN, of a quite Opposite Character to these, who wish well to the Church of England, and really Believe that Her Constitution in Doctrine, Discipline, and Worship, the Best, and Purest in the Christian World; and when either their Tongues, Hands, or Purses are wanting in Her Defence, are ready to Sacrifice their Persons, and Estates in Her Vindication. These indeed are Noble Qualifications, and 'tis pity so Good a Character should want any thing to Complement it. And to turn the Words of our Blessed Saviour, to the Rich Man, Yet One thing thou lackest, thy Zeal is to be shewn In, as well as For, the Communion of the Church, in Obeying Her Precepts, as well as Defending Her Rights. In all these Cases there is a Serious and Deliberate Act of Treachery against Conscience and Conviction, a Base Forfeiture of that Spiritual Allegiance We owe to God, and Our Church, as a Sacred Body, and Fraternity, that ought to Preserve Inviolable Unity, professing One Faith, One Baptism, One God, and Saviour of Us All.

2. But Secondly, Men may be Denominated FALSE BRETHREN, with Relation to the State, Government, or Society of which they are Members. The Constitutions of most Governments differing according to their several Frames, and Laws, upon which they are Built, and Founded, it is impossible to lay down any One Universal Rule, as the Scheme, and Measure of Obedience, that may square to every one of them. Only this Maxim in general, I presume, may be, Establish'd for the Safety, Tranquillity, and Support of All Governments that no Innovation whatsoever should be Allow'd in the Fundamental Constitution of any State, without a very Pressing, nay Unavoidable Necessity for it; and whosoever Singly, or in a Private Capacity should attempt it, is Guilty of the Highest Misdemeanour, and is an Enemy to that Politick Body of which he is a Member. To apply this Maxim to Our Government, in which the Truth of it will very evidently Appear. Our Constitution both

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in Church, and State has been so admirably *Contriv'd*, with that *Wisdom, Weight and Sagacity*, and the *Temper, and Genius* of each, so exactly *Suited*, and *Modell'd* to the *Mutual Support*, and *Assistance* of One another, that 'tis hard to say, whether the *Doctrins* of the Church of England contribute more to *Authorize*, and *Enforce* Our *Civil Laws*, or Our *Laws* to *Maintain*, and *Defend* the *Doctrins* of Our Church. The Natures of Both are so nicely *Correspondent*, and so happily *Intermixt*, that 'tis almost impossible to offer a *Violation*, to the One, without *Breaking* in upon the *Body* of the Other. So that in all those Cases before mention'd, whosoever *Presumes* to *Innovate*, *Alter*, or *Misrepresent* any Point in the *Articles* of the *Faith* of our Church, ought to be *Arraign'd* as a *Traytor* to our *State*; *Heterodoxy* in the *Doctrins* of the One, Naturally producing, and almost *Necessarily Inferring* *Rebellion*, and *High-Treason* in the Other, and consequently a *Crime* that concerns the *Civil Magistrate*, as much to *Punish*, and *Restrain*, as the *Ecclesiastical*. However this Assertion at first View may look like an *High-flown Paradox*, the Proof of it will fully appear in a few *Instances*. The *Grand Security* of our *Government*, and the very *Pillar* upon which it stands, is founded upon the *steady Belief* of the *Subject's Obligation* to an *Absolute*, and *Unconditional Obedience* to the *Supream Power*, in *All Things Lawful*, and the utter *Illegality* of *Resistance* upon any *Pretence* whatsoever. But this *Fundamental Doctrin*, notwithstanding it's *Divine Sanction* in the *Express Command* of God in *Scripture*, and without which, it is impossible any *Government* of any *Kind*, or *Denomination* in the World, should *subsist* with *Safety*, and which has been so long the *Honourable*, and *Distinguishing Characteristic* of Our Church, is now, it seems, quite *Exploded*, and *Redicul'd* out of Countenance, as an *Unfashionable*, *Superannuated*, nay (which is more wonderful) as a *Dangerous Tenet*, utterly *Inconsistent* with the *Right Liberty*, and *Property* of the *PEOPLE*; who as our *New Preachers*, and *New Politicians* teach us, (I suppose by a *New*, and *Unheard of Gospel*, as well as *Laws*) have in *Contradiction* to *Both*, the *Power Invested* in *Them*, the *Fountain and Original* of it, to *Cancel* their *Allegiance* at pleasure, and call their *Sovereign* to account for *High-Treason* against his *Supream Subjects*, forsooth! nay to *De-brown*, and *Murder* Him for a Criminal, as they did the *Royal Martyr* by a *Judiciary Sentence*. And what is almost *Incredible*, presume to make their *Court* to their *Prince*, by maintaining such *Anti-monarchical Schemes*. But God be Thanked! neither the *Constitution* of Our Church or State, is so far *Alter'd*, but that by the *Laws* of *Both*, (still in Force, and which I hope for ever will be) these *Damnable Positivists*, let 'em come either from *Rome*, or *Geneva*, from the *Pulpit*, or the *Press*, are condemn'd for *Rebellion*, and *High-Treason*. Our Adversaries think they effectually stop our Mouths, and have Us Sure and *Unanswerable* on this Point, when they urge the *Revolution of this Day* in their *Defence*. But certainly They are the *Greatest Enemies* of *That*, and His *Late Majesty*, and the most *Ungrateful* for the *Deliverance*, who endeavour to cast such *Black*, and *Odious Colours* upon *Both*. How of-

ten must they be told, that the * *King Himself* solemnly *Disclaim'd* the Least Imputation of *Resistance* in his *Declaration*; and that the *Parliament* declar'd, That they set the *Crown* on his Head, upon no other *Title*, but that of the *Vacancy of the Throne*? And did they not Unanimously condemn to the *Flames*, (as it justly Deserv'd) that *Infamous Libel*, that would have *Pleaded* the *Title of Conquest*! by which *Resistance* was suppos'd? So Tender were they of the *Regal Rights*, and so averse to infringe the least Tittle of Our *Constitution*! We see how ready these *Incendaries* are to take the least Umbrage, to charge their own *Cursed Tenets* on the *Church of England*, to Derive *their Guilt* upon it, and Quit *Scores* with it for *Their Iniquity*! Thus do they endeavour to draw *Comparisons*, and to Justify the horrid *Actions* and *Principles* of *Forty One*, which have been of late Years, to the Scandal of Our *Church*, and Nation, so Publickly Defended, not only by the *Agents*, and *Writers* of the *Republican Faction*, but by some that have the *Confidence* to style themselves *Sons*, and *Presbyters* of the *Church of England*; who in open *Defiance* of the most *peremptory Declarations* of God in *Scripture*, (never to be evaded by any *Shifts* or *Misinterpretations*) and the *Universal Doctrin*, and *Expositions* of the *Catholick Church* upon it in *all Ages*, with the *express Testimony*, and *Concurrence* of Our *Church*, from it's *Reformation* down to the *Present Times*, Corroborated with the *Sense* of Our *Legislature*, so *unexceptionably Confirm'd* in Our *Laws*, Dare in *Despight* and *Contempt* of *all this Evidence*, manifestly Defend the *Resistance of the Supream Power*, under a *New-fangl'd Notion of Self-Defence*; the only Instance they shew of *Shame*, that they dare not *Y E T*, maintain *Rebellion* by it's *Proper Name*. Yet, if those *silly Pretences*, and *weak Excuses* for it alledg'd, carry any *Strength* or *Reason* in them at all, they will equally serve to *Justify All the Rebellions* that ever were, or can be committed in the World. Now as the *Republicans* Copy after the *Papists* in most of their *Doctrins* and *Practices*, I would fain know in *this*, where the *Difference* lies, betwixt the *Power Granted* to, (as 'tis suppos'd Originally *invested*, but from what *Commission* God knows) in the *People*, to *Judge* and *De throne* their *Sovereigns*, for any *Cause* they think fit, or a no less *Usurp'd Power* of the *Pope*, to *solve* the *People* from their *Allegiance*, and *dispose* of *Scepters*, and *Diadems* to his *Favourites*, whenever he thinks it his *Interest* to pluck them from his *Enemies Heads*. *Comparisons* are generally *Odious*; but a *Learned Bishop of our Kingdom*, whose *Aversion* to *Popery* I hope, is not

* His Highness Declares, in *Opposition* to those who give out, That We do intend to *CONQUER* and *ENSLAVE* these *NATIONS*, that we have thought fit to add a few Words to Our *Declaration*; "It is not to be imagin'd, that either *those* who have *Invited* Us, or *those* who are already come to *Assist* Us, can *Joyn* in a *WICKED ATTEMPT* of *CONQUEST*, to make void their Own *Lawful Titles* to their *Honours*, *Estates*, and *Inherits*. See the *Prince of Orange's Declaration*. Dr. Kennet's *History of the Four Last Reigns*, p. 493.

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doubted, I mean the * Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Sarum, has been Bold Judiciously to Determin, even on the Papist's Side in this Case, That if such a *Deposing Power* is to be entrusted in *Mortal Hands*, less *Inconveniencies* will ensue in placing it in *One*, than in *Many*, tho' God forbid it ever should be Lodg'd in any other than that of God himself, the *Original* of all Power, from whom it proceeds, and to whom it must Return, the *King of Kings*, Lord of *Lords*, and *ONLY Ruler of Princes*. So that these *Romantick wild Notions* will carry Us into something worse (if 'tis possible) than *Po-pery* it self; more *Fatal* to the *Rights* and *Interests* of the *Crown*, and the *Welfare*, and *Tranquillity* of *Our Constitution*, which can never be *Safe* under such *Precarious Dependencies*, and *Despotic Imaginations*. A Prince indeed, in another Sense, will be the *Breath of his Subject's Nostriks*, to be Blown in, or out, at their *Caprice*, and *Pleasure*, and a worse Vassal than even the meanest of his Guards. Such *Villainous* and *Seditious Principles* as these, Demand a *Confutation* from that *Government* they so insolently *Threaten*, and *Arraign*, and which are only *Proper* to be Answer'd by that *Sword* they would make our Princes bear in *Vain*, by the So-long call'd-for *Censure* of an *Ecclesiastical Synod*, and the *Correction* of a Provok'd and Affronted *Legislature*, to whose *Strict Justice*, and undeserv'd *Mercy*, I commit both *them* and Their *Authors*. Only give me leave to dismiss 'em with a *Remark* of the Pious and Learned Bishop Andrews upon some of their FALSE BRETHREN in his Time. † 'What (says that Good Prelate) is now become of those Words of God, Touch not mine Anointed? Are we not fallen into Strange Times, that Men dare thus Print and Publish, yea, even Preach and Proclaim their Sins; even those sinful and shameless Positions, to the Eyes, and Ears of the Whole World? Whereby God's Anointed are Endanger'd, Men's Souls are Poyson'd, Christian Religion is Blasphem'd as a Murtherer of her Own Kings; God in his Charge is openly Contradicted, and Men made Believe, they shall go to Heaven in breaking God's Commandments. What could have been spoken with a more Prophetical Spirit, of these filthy Dreamers, These Presumptuous and Self-will'd Men, Despisers of Dominion, and Government, who are not afraid to speak Evil of Dignities, who wrest the Word of God to their Own, and their deluded People's Perdition, and think to Consecrate even the worst of Sins, with what is almost Analogous to the Blasphemy against the Holy Ghost! These FALSE BRETHREN in Our Government, do not Singly, and in Private spread their Poyson,

* Less Disorder may be apprehended from the Pretensions of the Roman Bishops, than from these Maxims; that put the Power of Judging and Controlling the Magistrate in the PEOPLE's Hands, which opens a Door to Endless Confusions, and indeed, sets every Private Person upon the Throne, and introduceth an Anarchy, which will never admit of Order, and Remedy, whereas, Those who have but One PRETENDER over Them, could more easily deal with Him, and more Vigorously RESIST Him. [Vindication of the Church of Scotland, Printed at Glasgow, 1675. p. 68, 69.]

† Sermon 3. on the Conspiracy of the GOWRIES, Preach'd before the King at Holdenbeigh, Aug. 5. 1610 p. 302.

but (what is lamentable to be spoken) are suffer'd to combine into *Bodies*, and *Seminaries*, wherein *Atheism*, *Deism*, *Titheism*, *Sorinianism*, with all the *Hellish Principles* of *Fanaticism*, *Regicide*, and *Anarchy*, are openly *Profess'd*, and *Taught*, to *Corrupt* and *Debauch* the *Youth* of the *Nation*, in all *Parts* of it, down to *Posterity*, to the *Present Reproach*, and *Future Extirpation* of *Our Laws*, and *Religion*. Certainly the *Toleration* was never intended to *Indulge*, and *Cherish* such *Monsters*, and *Vipers* in our *Bosom*, that scatter *Their Pestilence* at *Noon-day*, and will *Rend*, *Distract*, and *Confound*, the firmest and *Best-sett'd Constitution* in the *World*. In short, as the *English Government* can never be *Secure* on any other *Principles*, but *strictly Those* of the *Church of England*, so I will be bold to say, where any *Part* of it is *Trusted* in *Persons* of any *Other Notions*, They must be *False* to *Themselves*, if They are *True* to their *Trusts*; or if They are *True* to Their *Opinions*, and *Interests*, must *Betray* That *Government* They are *Enemies* to upon *Principle*. Indeed, We must do 'em that *Justice*, to confess, That since the *Sectarists* have found out a way (which their *Fore-fathers*, God knows, as *Wicked* as they were, would have *Abhorr'd*) to swallow not only *Oaths*, but *Sacraments*, to *Qualify* themselves to get into *Places*, and *Preferments*; these *Sanctify'd Hypocrites* can put on a *shew* of *Loyalty*, and seem tolerably *Easy* in the *Government*, if they can *Engross* the *Honours* and *Profits* of it: But let *Her Majesty* reach out *Her Little Finger* to touch their *Loyns*, and these *Sworn Adversaries* to *Passive Obedience*, and the *Royal Family*, shall free themselves, and *Curse* their *Queen*, and their *God*, and shall look upwards. And so much for *Our Political FALSE BRETHREN*, till I come to speak with 'em again by and by. I proceed,

3. In the *Third Place*, to a more *Inferior Species* of Them, that *Act* in a *Lower Sphere*, namely *Those who in their Private Capacities*, are *FALSE* either in their *Friendship*, *Correspondence*, or *Dealing*; But these *Sins of Unfaithfulness*, as the *Psalmist* calls them, being of so *Copious*, and *Extensive* a Nature, and *Respecting* the *Private Concerns* of *Human Life*, I shall only trouble You with enumerating some of the *General Instances* of them: Such as are, *Betraying Our Friend* in his *Secrets*, *Deserting* him in his *Misfortunes*, in not *Defending* his *Reputation*, when *falsely Accus'd*, in an *Obsequious Compliance* with Him in any *Indirect*, or *Dishonourable Measures*, in a *Nauseous Flattery* of his *Follies*, or *Vices*, in *Permitting* him in any *Error*, without *Admonition*, and in giving him *wrong Advice*, and not leading him out of it. Such are also, with regard to *Our Neighbour*, the *Concealing*, or *Misrepresenting* any *Truth* that he is *Concern'd* to know, *Playing* upon his *Faith* with *Doubtful* and *Ambiguous Insinuations*, with *Double Equivocations*, and *Dissimulatory Expressions*, an *Actual Breach* of *Word*, *Promise*, or *Profession*, *Clandestine Undermining* by *Circumvention*, *Fraud*, or *Craft*, *Back-biting*, and secretly *Slandering*, *Propagating Scandal*, and *Bearing False-Witness*, and *Partaking* several ways in his *Sins*; which are all the *Characteristicks* of an *Insidious*, *Treacherous*, and *False-hearted Knave*. But these *Vices* being of a *Private Consideration*, I hasten to the next *General Head* propos'd, Namely,

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II. Secondly, To lay before You the Great Peril, and Mischiefs of these **FALSE BRETHREN** in Church, and State; which I shall endeavour to do, by Proving that They *Weaken, Undermine, and Betray* in Themselves, and Encourage, and put it in the Power of Our Profess'd Enemies, to *Overturn and Destroy* the Constitution, and Establishment of Both.

1. And First, as to the Church. But here it is very Necessary to Premise, That by the Church of England, We are to understand the True Genuine Notion of it, as it stands *Contra-distinguish'd* in it's Establish'd Doctrin, Discipline, and Worship, from all Other Churches, and Schismaticks, who would *Oberude* upon Us, a *Wild, Negative Idea* of a **NATIONAL CHURCH**, so as to Incorporate Themselves into the Body, as True Members of it; Whereas 'tis evident that this *Latitudinarian, Heterogeneous Mixture* of all Persons of what Different Faith soever, *Uniting* in *Protestancy*, (which is but One Single Note of the Church of England) would render it the most *Absurd, Contradictory, and Self-Inconsistent Body* in the World. This *Spurious, and Villainous Notion*, which will take in *Jews, Quakers, Mahometans*, and any thing as well as *Christians*, as ridiculously incongruous as 'tis, may be first Observ'd, as One of those Prime, Popular Engines, Our **FALSE BRETHREN** have made Use of, to *Undermine* the very Essential Constitution of Our Church; which, as it stands Guarded with it's Own Sacred Fences, with Her only True Sons in Her Bosom, may Defy all the Malice of the Devil, and Her Enemies, to Prevail against Her. But such is Her hard Fortune, Her Worst Adversaries must be let into Her Bowels, under the holy Umbrage of Sons, who neither Believe Her Faith, Own Her Mission, Submit to Her Discipline, or Comply with Her Liturgy. And to admit this Religious Trojan Horse, big with Arms, and Ruine, into Our Holy City, the Sreight Gate must be laid quite Open, Her Walls, and Inclosures pull'd down, and an High-Road made in upon Her Communion, and this Pure Spouse of Christ Prostituted to more Adulterers than the Scarlet Whore in the Revelation. Her Articles must be Taught the Confusion of all Senses, Nations, and Languages, to render Her a Babel, and Desolation. This was indeed the Ready way to Fill the House of God, but with what? with Pagan Beasts, instead of Christian Sacrifices; with such Unhallow'd, Loathsome, and Detestable Guests, as would have Driv'n out the Holy Spirit of God with Indignation. This Pious Design of making Our House of Prayer a Den of Thieves, of Reforming Our Church into a Chaos, is well known to have been Attempted several times in This Kingdom, and lately within Our Memory, when all Things seem'd to Favour it, but that Good Providence, which so happily Interpos'd, against the Ruine of Our Church, and Blasted the Long-projected Scheme of these Ecclesiastical Achitophels. A Scheme so Monstrous, so Romantic, and Absurd, that 'tis hard to say, whether it had more of Villainy, or Folly in it, and which even the Sectarists of all Sorts (who will not be satisfy'd with any thing less than Sovereignty) Exploded; and Laugh'd at, as Ridiculous, and Impracticable. It was doubtless a Wise way to Exemplify Our Brotherly Love, and Charity for the Souls of Men, to put both Them and Our selves into a Gulph of Perdition, by throwing up the Essentials of

our Faith, and the Uniformity of our Worship. But since this Model of an Universal Liberty, and Coalition fail'd, and these FALSE BRETHREN could not carry the Conventicle into the Church, they are now Resolv'd to bring the Church into the Conventicle, which will more Plausibly, and Silly Effect her Ruine. What could not be gain'd by Comprehension, and Toleration, must be brought about by Moderation, and Occasional Conformity, that is, what they could not do by Open Violence, they will not fail by Secret Treachery, to Accomplish. If the Church can't be Pull'd down, it may be Blown up; and no matter with these Men How 'tis Destroy'd, so that it is Destroy'd. Now let Us, I beseech You in the Name of God, fairly consider what must be the Consequence of this Scandalous Fluctuation, and Trimming betwixt the Church, and Dissenters, both in Conscience, and Prudence. Does not this Innovating in, Giving up, or Receding from, any One Point, or Article in our Faith, Violate, and Affect the Whole Frame, and Body of it? Can we either Add to, or Diminish from, the Least Jot of our Religion? Are we to take it's Constitution as our Saviour, and his Apostles Deliver'd it down to Us; or have we Authority to Curtail, Mangle, or Alter it to Suit it to the Pride, Humours, Caprice, and Qualm sick Stomachs of Obstinate, Moody, Wayward, and Selfconceited Hy-crites, and Enthusiasts? Will not such a Base, and Time-serving Compliance give the Enemies of Our Church an Occasion of Blaspheming Her as Weak, and Inconstant? Will it not Argue the Illegality of Her Ordinances, and Laws, or that they were too Rigid, and wanted an Abatement? Will not this Harden, Encourage, nay Justify the Dissenters in their Opinion of their Separation, when they see such large Allowances, and Concessions made in it's Favour? What Dishonourable, and Unworthy Opinions must they entertain of the Priests of that Church, who can Sacrifice their most Solemn Declarations, and Oaths to Complaisance, and Preferment? What would be the End of All this, but to Establish Heresy, and Erastianism upon the Ruines of our Faith, and Discipline? Would not this Spiritual Legerdemain, this Fallacious Tricking, and Double-dealing, Eradicate all the Principles of Truth, and Honesty, or Piety out of Men's Minds, make 'em Unconcern'd, whether there is Any, or No Religion, Run 'em into an Universal Scepticism, and Infidelity, and make 'em All Atheists, or Papists? For when they had Turn'd about, and about, and were grown Giddy with Change, they would either Give up Themselves to the Unbelief of all things, or Rest their Weary'd Judgments in the Authority of that Church alone, that can Delude 'em with the Specious Presences of an Infallible Guide. Thus Our FALSE BRETHREN, as the Jews did our Blessed Saviour, Crucify his Church Betwixt Thieves; and as they committed that Execrable Villainy under a Pretended Fear lest the ROMANS should come and take away the their Place, and Nation, which by that very Fact They brought upon Themselves: So these, Men out of a Fictitious Fear lest the Modern ROMANS should come, and Destroy Our Church, are Working that Ruine they pretend to Avoid, and under a False Zeal of Keeping out Popery, are Themselves infallibly Bringing in That very POPERY into Our Kingdom, with which they so Falsely, and ungratefully endeavour to Attain.

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the Church of England, the Greatest Bulwark, and only Safe-Guard against Popery in the whole World! Tho' it were highly to be wish'd that those Excellent Laws made for Her Defence, and Security were at present put Stricly into Execution; for the Roman Catholic Agents, and Missionaries that swarm about this Great City, as it were in Defiance and Contempt of them, were never more Busy in making Profelytes to their Superstition, and Idolatry, and Perverting and Debauching Her Majesty's Subjects in every Corner of our Streets.

2. Thus we see how Dangerous these FALSE BRETHREN are to Our Church, which is so Great, and Considerable a Branch of our Civil Constitution, that the Support of Our Government depends upon it's Welfare, and what Affects That, must strike at the Foundation of Our State; Innovations in Either tending to the Subversion of their Laws, and the Unsettling their Establishment, and consequently to Anarchy, and Confusion. But to draw this Argument more home to the Point; I will endeavour to Prove, that our FALSE BRETHREN are as Destructive of our Civil, or Ecclesiastical Rights. For first it cannot be deny'd, that tho' They do submit to the Government, their Obedience is Forc'd, and Constrain'd, and therefore so Treacherous, and Uncertain, as never to be Trusted, because proceeding upon no Principle, but meer Interest and Ambition; and when ever that changes, their Allegiance must follow it; and therefore (to use their Own Expression) are as much Occasional Loyalists to the State, as They are Occasional Conformists to the Church, that is, They will Betray either, whenever it is in their Power, and They think it for their Advantage. FALSE-HOOD always implies Treachery; and whether That is a Qualification for any One to be Trusted, especially with the Guardianship of our Church, or Crown, let our Governors consider. And certainly nothing but the most Sottish Infatuation, can so far Blind both our Eyes, and our Judgments, as to make us Believe, that the same Causes should not produce the same Effects, and that the same Latitudinarian, and Republican Notions should not bring forth the same Rebellious, and Pernicious Consequences. They are pleas'd now to soften their Lewd Principles, and cover their Dangerous Tenets with the Name of Speculative Opinions; but what Fatal Practices they have created, and whether these Seditious Thoughts will not again Exemplify themselves in the same Bloody Actions; We shall be Convinc'd, to our Sorrow, if We don't Apprehend that the Old Leaven of their Fore-fathers is still Working in their Present Generation, and that this Traditional Poyson still remains in this Brood of Vipers, to Sting Us to Death, is sufficiently Visible, from the Dangerous Encroachments They now make upon our Government, and the Treasonable Reflections They have Publish'd on Her Majesty, God Bless Her! Whose Hereditary Right to the Throne, They have had the Impudence to Deny, and Cancel, to make Her a Creature of their own Power, and that by the same Principles They plac'd a Crown upon Her, They tell Us They (that is the Mob) may Re-assume it at their Pleasure. Nay, now They have Advanc'd themselves from the Religious Liberty Our Gracious Sovereign has Indulg'd them, to Claim a Civil Right, as they Term it, and to Justly the Church out of Her Establishment.

Establishment, by Hoisting their *Toleration* into it's Place; and to convince Us what alone will satisfy 'em, insolently Demand the *Repeal of the Corporation, and Test Acts*, as an *Ecclesiastical Usurpation*, which indeed under *Her Majesty* (whom God long Preserve for it's Comfort and Support) is the only *Security* the Church has to Depend upon. And which they have so far *Eluded* by their *Abominable Hypocrisy*, as to have Undermin'd Her *Foundations*, and *Indanger* the *Government*, by filling it with it's *Professed Enemies*. These *Charges* are so *Flagrant*, and *Undeniable*, that a Man must be very *Weak*, or *something worse*, that thinks or Pretends, the *Dissenters* are to be *Gain'd*, or won over by any other *Grants*, and *Indulgences*, than giving up our *Whole Constitution*: And he that *recedes* the least *Titlle* from it, to satisfy, or *Ingratiate* with these *Clamorous, Insatiable, and Church-Devouring Malignants*, knows not what Spirit They are of, or He ought to shew who is a *True Member of Our Church*. Have They not ever since their first *Unhappy Plantation* in this Kingdom, by the *Intercession* of That *False Son* of the Church, *Bishop Grindhall*, always *Improv'd*, and *Rise* upon their *Demands* in the *Permission* of the *Government*? Infomuch that *Queen Elizabeth*, that was *Deluded* by that *Perfidious Prelate* to the *Toleration* of the *Genevian Discipline*, found it such an *Headstrong*, and *Encroaching Monster*, that in *Eight Years*, She foresaw it would *Endanger* the *Monarchy*, as well as the *Hierarchy*: And like a *Queen of True Resolution*, and *Pious Zeal* for Both pronounc'd, 'That such were the *Restless Spirits* of that *FACTIOUS People*, that no *Quiet* was to be *Expected* from them, till they were utterly *Suppress'd*: Which, like a *Prudent Princess*, She did by *Wholsome Severities*, that the *Crown* for many *Years* sat *Easy*, and *Flourishing* on Her Head. And had Her *Successor, King James*, but follow'd Her *Wise Politicks*, his *Son* had never slain a *Martyr* to their *Fury*, nor any of his *Unhappy Offspring* suffer'd those *Disastrous Calamities*, which made the *Royal Family* One continu'd *Sacrifice* to their *Malice*. And what better could have been expected from *Miscreants, Begot in Rebellion, Born in Sedition, and Nurs'd up in Faction*? I would not here be *Misunderstood*, as if I intended to cast the least *Invidious Reflection* upon that *Indulgence* the *Government* has condescended to give 'em, which I am sure all those that wish well to Our Church are very ready to *Grant* to *Consciences truly Scrupulous*; let Them Enjoy it in the full Limits the *Law* has *Prescrib'd*. But let them also *move* within their *Proper Sphere*, and not grow *Eccentrick*, and like *Comets* that *Burst* their *Orb*, *Threaten* the *Ruine*, and *Down-fall* of Our Church, and State. Indeed they tell us they have *Relinquish'd* the *Principles*, as well as the *Sins* of their *Fore-fathers*. If so, why do they not *Renounce* their *Schism*, and come *Sincerely* into Our Church? Why do they *Pelt* Her with more *Blasphemous Libels*, and *Scurrilous Lampoons*, than were ever *Publish'd* in *Oliver's Usurpation*? Have they not lately *Villainously Divided* us with *Knavish Distinctions* of *High*, and *Low-Church Men*? Are not the *Best Characters* they can give Us, those of *Papists, Jacobites, and Conspirators*? And what do they mean by all this *Insidious Cant*, but by *False Insinuations*, and raising *Groundless Jealousies*, and *Fears*, to *Imbroil* the *Publick*, and to bring it into that *Confusion*, they are

20 The PERILS of FALSE BRETHREN,

Suggesting upon Us? Whether these Men are not Conceiving, and Plotting our utter Ruine, and whether all those FALSE BRETHREN, that fall in with these Measures, and Designs, do not contribute basely to it, I leave every Impartial Man that wishes the Welfare of Our Constitution to Determine: And if we find this true in Fact, What Reason have we to think, but that the National Sins are Ripen'd up to a full Maturity, to call down Vengeance from Providence on a Church and Kingdom, thus Debauch'd in it's Principles, and Corrupted in it's Manners, and instead of the True Faith, Discipline, and Worship, given over to all Licentiousness, both in Opinion, and Practice to all Sensuality, Hypocrisy, Lewdness, and Atheism? And now are We under no Danger in these Deplorable Circumstances? Must We Lull Our selves under this sad Repose, and in such a Stupid, Lethargic Security, Embrace Our Ruine? When Elisha, the Great Prophet of God, was Surrounded with an Host of Enemies, that sought for his Life, his Blind Servant beheld not the Peril his Master was in, till his Eyes were Open'd by Miracle, and he found himself in the midst of Horses and Chariots of Fire. I pray God We may be out of Danger, but we may remember the King's Person was Voted to be so, at the same Time that his Murderers were Conspiring his Death. What I have thus freely spoken, I hope is as much without Offence, as it proceeds from a Good Intention, and a Tender Concern for Her Majesty's Person, and Government, and an hearty Zeal for the Honour and Safety of our Excellent Church, and Constitution. I entreat Your Patience,

III. Briefly to set forth the Heinous Malignity, Enormous Guilt, and Folly of this Prodigious Sin of FALSE BROTHERHOOD.

1. And First, With Regard to God and Religion. It is a most Perfidious Apostacy from, and Reproach upon Both: It is no Less than Renouncing Our Allegiance to our Almighty Sovereign, an Open Denial, and Prostitution of our most Holy Faith, and Church, upon which Crime God has Entail'd so many Dreadful Threats, and Anathemas. It is Betraying our most Solemn Oaths, proving False to our Sacred Trust, and Commission, Administring to, and Indulging Men in the most Mortal Sins, Endangering both our Own, and the Salvation of that Dear Flock, for which Christ Dy'd, by Exposing it to the Corruptions of Heresy, and Schism, the Impositions of False Apostles, and the Deceit, and Malice of Wolves in Sheep's-Cloathing. It is Deriving the highest Blasphemy, and Dishonour upon the Holy Spirit of God, thus to Prevaricate with his Immutable Oracles of Truth, in Wrestling 'em' to maintain the most Diabolical Falshoods, and Errors, and making Veracity itself the Author, and Patronizer of Lyes. It is Forsaking Our Baptismal Covenant, basely Deserting the Glorious Colours we are Listed under, Turning Refugees from our Saviour, and Adherents to his Abjur'd Enemies. In a Word, to Accomplish any wretched Secular Design, to Gratify their Pride, or Ambition, to Feed their Lust, or Avarice, to Wreak their Spleen, or Revenge, out of Envy, or Disappointment, for a Little, Poultry Honour, Money, or Preferment, These FALSE BRETHREN will Renounce their Creed, and Read the Decalogue backward, be the very Reverse of Our Blessed Saviour (whom like their Primitive Pattern, they first Sell, and then Betray) Fall down and Worship the very Devil himself, for the Riches and Honours of this World.

2. Secondly,

2. *Secondly, In Regard to the World.* What a vast Scandal, and Offence must it give to all Persons of Piety, and Integrity, to see Men of Character, and Stations, thus Shift, and Prevaricate with their Principles, and Starting from their Religion upon any Occasion of Difficulty, or Trial, and like the Disciples, flying from, and forsaking Our Saviour, when his Life lay at Stake? To see Men's Opinions sit as Loose about 'em as their Garments, to be put on, or off, for Convenience? What can Unwary Persons conclude from such Teignification, and Hypocrisy, but that All Religion is State-Craft, and Imposture? That All Godliness is Gain; and that the Doctrines of the Church, lie not so much in Her Articles, as Her Honours, and Revenues? Without doubt, this Modern Latitude, and infamous Double-Dealing, as it can proceed from nothing but the Rankest Atheism, so it must Propagate it wheresoever it goes; and 'tis not to be Question'd, but that the Wonderful Increase, and Impudent Appearance of all Sects and Heresies, in this Kingdom at present, beyond what was ever known in Former Ages, is chiefly to be Attributed to it. But this Crime is as Pernicious to Human Society, as Religion, for it Destroys All Common Honesty, Fair, and Credit in the World, and in the place of it, sets up an Universal Trade of Counterfeiting, Sharpening, Dissimulation, and downright Knavery. For, what Dependence can there be upon a Man of no Principles? What Trust in Equivocations, Evasions, and Lyes? Nor indeed could any One be suppos'd so Sottish, as to place the least Confidence in these Men, did they not Bait their Hook, and Cover their Treachery with the Sacred, and Plausible Pretences of FRIENDSHIP, whereby they are capable of doing much more Mischief, than a bare-faced and profess'd Enemy. In what moving and Lively Colours does the Holy Psalmist Paint out the Crafty Insidiousness of such wilely Wolpones? Wickedness, (says he) is therein, Deceit and Guile go not out of their Streets. For it is not an Open Enemy that has done me this Dishonour, for then I could have born it: Neither was it mine Adversary that did Magnify himself against Me, for then peradventure I would have bid my self from him: But, it was even Thou! my Companion, my Guide, and mine own Familiar Friend. We took sweet Counsel together, and walked in the House of God as Friends. There is no Faithfulness in their Mouths, their inward Parts are very Wickedness; their Throats are Open Sepulchres, and their Words are smoother than Oil, yet be they very Swords. Like Joab, they pretend to speak Peaceably, and smite Us Mortally under the Fifth Rib.

3. *Thirdly, With Regard to a Man's Self,* it is hard to Distinguish whether our FALSE BRETHREN prove themselves Guilty of more excessive Knavery, or Folly. For whatever these Cunning, Temporizing Politicians may think, they will find, after all their Shufflings, and Compliance, that the Plain Road, of Truth, Honesty, and Integrity, is both the most Prudent, as well all the Safest Way they can follow, and that the Wisdom of this World is as much Foolishness with Men, as 'tis with God. For certainly there is no Sin that so much Disappoints it's Own Ends as This does. Perhaps the Man may Obtain the Present Advantage, He has in Prospect, by relinquishing his Old Friends, and Principles; but is ever such a Mercenary Convert receiv'd heartily into the Bosom of his Former Enemies? Or are they ever found so Credulous, and Good-natur'd, as to Forgive, and Believe such an Apostate-Cordial, and Sincere, and fit to be Trusted in any Matter of Weight, or Importance, who has

has Betray'd his Own Party for the Little, Sordid Lucre of a Place, or Preferment? And is agen ready to be Retrag'd, whenever the Wind shall Change, and Veer about? Such a FALSE BROTHER may serve the Present Turn of his Adversaries, who may seem whilst they want the FOOL, to Flatter, and Caress him; but let such a Turn-Coat rest assur'd, He shall meet with Hypocrisy, for Hypocrisy; and since He is got upon the Stage, shall Act his Part, and be His'd off when He has done? Such a Wise Game do our Projectors Play, they Barter, and Betray their Friends, only to Sell themselves Slaves into the Hands of their Enemies, who shall Treat them with more Insolence, Disdain, and Tyranny, than Honest Men do with Scorn, and Contempt, if they don't go the whole Lengths of their Party, stick at nothing, tho' never so Impious, and Absurd, and run from one Extream to a quite Contrary. Thus Little, thus Base, thus Odious, thus Contemptible, thus Servile, nay thus Execrable is the Traytor, and Double-Dealer in the Sight, not only of all Honest Men, but the most Profess'd Knaves, and Hypocrites, Who cannot but have a Tacit Regard, and Veneration for a Man of Steadiness, and Probity, that upon All Occasions is True to Himself, and his Cause, is above the Threats, as well as Flatteries of this World, still Trusting in his God, and in his own Integrity, and Justice, Despising his Interest, or Success, and is under all Circumstances like that God, and Religion He Believes, and Serves, without Variableness, or Shadow of Change, but is the same to day, to morrow, and for ever. Farther, these FALSE BRETHREN cannot be more Odious to God, and Man, than they are to Themselves, who are always a Self-Contradiction, full of Confusion, and Perplexity, perpetually Haunting themselves, the Worst of Demons, maintaining an Irreconcilable War betwixt the Outward, and Inward Man, Conformists in Profession, Half-Conformists in Practice, and Non-Conformists in Judgment. Such a Mixture of Inconsistency, and Nonsense, that any One, that has the least Spark of Conscience, or Reason, must Renounce, and Desert. But this dismal Effect has such a State of Habitual Hypocrisy, that it quite Damps and Extinguishes Both, Quenches the Holy Spirit of God, and Crucifies his Son afresh; and as it finds a Man void of Shame, generally without a Miraculous Conversion leaves him incapable of Repentance, and both Damns him here, and hereafter; and as He Chose it in This World, Appoints him in the Next, his Portion with Hypocrites, and Unbelievers, with all Lyars, that have their Part in the Lake which Burns with Fire and Brimstone, with the Grand-Father of Falshood, the Devil, and his Angels. And To here We leave our FALSE BRETHREN in the Company they always keep Correspondence with.

IV. Now what should be the Result of this Long Discourse, but that if We bear any True Concern for the Interest, Honour, and Safety of Our Church and Government We ought stedfastly to Adhere to those Fundamental Principles, upon which Both are Founded, and upon which their Security under God alone depends; and consequently that it highly Behoves Us, Cautiously to Watch against, to Mark, and Avoid All those that thus Treacherously Desert them. And indeed it would be both for Our Advantage, as well as Their Credit, if such Men would throw off the Mask, entirely Quit Our Church, of which They are no True Members, and not fraudulently Eat Her Bread, and lay wait for Her Ruin, Purloin Her Revenues, and ungratefully Lift up their Heels against Her. For then We should be One Fold under

under One Shepherd, all those Invidious Distinctions that now Distract, and Confound Us Los'd; and We should be Terrible like an Army of Banners to our Enemies, who could never Break in upon such an Uniform, and Well-compacted Body. This indeed would be a True Peace, and Solid Union, when We should All with One Mind, and one Mouth, Glorify God, and not with a Confus'd Diversity of Contradictory Opinions, and inconsistent Fargon of Worship, which the God of Peace, Purity and Order cannot but Abhor. As it is a Maxim in Politicks, that All Governments are best supported by the same Methods, and Councils upon which they are Founded; so it will appear undeniably True in its Application to Our Constitution, which can be Maintain'd by no Other Principles, but Those on which it is Built, and like their Basis, the Gospel, if there's any Violation, or Breach made in any Branch of it, it Shakes and Endangers the whole Frame, and Body. These Things, however Little they may be Represented by Our Adversaries, will be found of the most Considerable Consequence. Let us therefore, as We are Unhappy Sharers of St. Paul's Misfortune, to have Our Church in Perils among FALSE BRETHREN, follow his Example, and Conduct in a Parallel Case. He tells Us in his Epistle to the Galatians, c. 2. That he was Obstructed, and Pester'd in his Preaching the Gospel, by FALSE BRETHREN unawares brought in, who came Privily to spy out His Liberty, which He had in Christ Jesus, that They might bring Him into Bondage: To whom he gave Place by Subjection, no not for an Hour, that the Truth of the Gospel might continue with the Church. Doubtless this Brave, and Bold Resolution did the Apostle take by the peculiar Command, and Inspiration of the Holy Ghost; and yet if Our Dissenters had Liv'd in those Times, they would have Branded him as an Intemperate, Hot, Furious Zealot, that wanted to be Sweeten'd, by the Gentle Spirit of Charity, and Moderation forsooth. Schism, and Faction, are Things of Impudent, and Incredulous Nature; they Thrive upon Concessions, take Permission for Power, and Advance a Toleration immediately into an Establishment. And are therefore to be Treated like Growing Mischiefs, or Infectious Plagues, kept at a Distance, lest their Deadly Contagion spreads. Let Us therefore have no Fellowship with these Works of Darkness, but rather Reprove them. Let Our Superior Pastors do their Duty in Thundering out their Ecclesiastical Anathemas, and let any Power on Earth Dare Reverse a Sentence Ratify'd in Heaven. Let Them Discountenance all these Seditious, Luke-warm, Almost-Christians, and Promote Men of Probity, Conscience, and Courage. I say Conscience, and Courage, for the One without the Other, is like Faith without Works, Dead, and Insignificant. A Christian, and a Coward, are such Contradictions as were never Found in the Church Militant. Men of Timorous, and Bastardly Spirits, who are Asham'd to Own, or Afraid to Defend their Principles, lest they should Loose, or Suffer by it, will prove very Poor Disciples of the Cross! Such Men (as an Ingenious Prelate Wittily expresses it) are only Honest by Chance. Let us Despise the Sneaking, Shuffling Compliances of such as Consult their Safety, and not their Innocence, and Dare to be True in the Worst of Times, with this All-sustaining, Cordial, Comfort, that whatever Enemies We Gain, or Friends We Loose, We carry One within Us, that can Confront, Vanquish, and Counterbalance All. (a) Woe! unto them that have a Fearful Heart, and and to the faint Hands, and to the Sinner that goeth two Manner of Ways

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says the Wise-Man. And agreeable to Him, the Apostle in very Sarcas-
tic Expressions, (a) Wo unto them that have gone in the Way of Cain, and
run greedily after the Error of Balaam for Reward, and Perish'd in the
Ginsaying of Corah. These are Spots in Your Facets of Charity, Clouds
without Water, carry'd about of Winds, Trees whose Fruit's With-er'd, with-
out Fruit, Twice Dead, pluck't up by the Roots, Raging Waves of the Sea
foaming out their Own Shame, Wandring Stars to whom is Revers'd the
Blackness of Darknes for Ever. Let us therefore, being well assur'd
how much Our Cause Deserves, and how much at present it Requires
Our Bravest Resolutions, bold fast our Integrity, and Religion without Waver-
ing, and earnestly Contend for the Faith, which was once deliver'd unto the
Saints. (b) My Brethren, be Strong in the Lord, and in the Power of his Might.
Put on the whole Armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the
Wiles of the Devil. For we Wrestle not only against Flesh and Blood, but
against Principalities, against Powers, against the Riders of the Darknes
of this World, against Spiritual Wickedness in High-Places. Wherefore
take unto You the Whole Armour of God, that Ye may be able to withstand
in the Evil Day, and having done All to Stand. Not doubting but that
if We shew the same Courage, and indefatigable Zeal, and Labour to
Defend, as Our Adversaries to Reproach, Divide, and Ruine Our
Church, neither their United Malice, nor Power, nor all the Plots, and Ma-
chinations of Rome; nor the very Gates of Hell it self shall ever be Able
to Prevail against Her. And let Us Trust in that Gracious Providence which
so Miraculously Deliver'd Her on this Day, that tho' She (c) lies Bleed-
ing of the Wounds She has Receiv'd in the House of Her Friends, (d) tho' the
Ways of Zion may Mourn for a Time, and Her Gates be Desolate, Her
Priests Sigh, and She in Bitterness, because Her Adversaries are Chief,
and Her Enemies at present Prosper; Tho' among all Her Lovers, she has
Few to Comfort Her, and many of Her Friends have dealt Treacherously
with Her, and are become Her Enemies, (e) tho' there are Few to Guide Her
among all the Sons whom She has brought forth, neither are there many that
take Her by the Hand, of all the Sons that She hath brought up, tho' Her
Enemies Cry, Down with Her, Down with Her even to the Ground, yet
there is a God that Can, and Will Raise Her Up, if We Forsake Her
not. Let Us not therefore Ungratefully contribute to Her Destruction,
but let us (f) continue Stedfast, Immoveable, always abounding in the Work
of the Lord, forasmuch as We know that our Labour will not be in vain in
the Lord. Now the (g) God of all Grace, who hath call'd Us into his Eternal
Glory by Christ Jesus, after that Ye have Suffer'd a While, make you Per-
fect, Stablish, Strengthen, Settle You. To Him be Glory, and Dominion
for Ever, and Ever. Amen.

Let Us conclude All in that Excellent Collect of Our Church.

O Lord! We beseech Thee let thy continual Pity Cleanse, and Defend
thy Church, and because it cannot continue in Safety without thy Suc-
cour, Preserve it evermore by thy Help, and Goodness, thro' Jesus Christ,
Our Lord.

(a) Jude 11. 12, 13. (b) Eph. 6. 10, &c. (c) Lam. 2. 2. 4. (d) Zech.
13. 6. (e) Isa. 51. 18. (f) 1 Cor. 15. 58. (g) 1 Pet. 5. 10, 11.

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